

## RHEA ON STAND DENIES CHARGES

## Makes Calm and Deliberate Statement as to His Record in Southwest

## COUNSEL SPRANG GREAT SURPRISE

People Were Leaving Room  
When Announcement That the  
Principal Would Testify  
Caused Small Sensation.  
More About Scott  
County Ballot.

Surprising officials, attorneys and spectators in the Senate chamber last night, Judge William F. Rhea, of Bristol, before the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Confirmation, took the stand in his own behalf when the opposition asked for time in which to secure the attendance of witnesses.

former Senator H. Walter Dick, Jr., who was called as an original witness, whereupon he was asked an adjournment and ruled out of the committee for the day. The committee had voted to adjourn at 10 o'clock Monday night, whereupon the committee called a few moments for conference with Judge Rhea, and his attorney retained for the clerk's office of the Senate chamber, and almost immediately returned to Mr. Irvine announcing that Judge Rhea had agreed to testify.

lose the case for the defense. The Bristol man testified in a clear and deliberate manner for about an hour when he left the chair. By that time he had gone through nearly all the charges lodged against him.

Hon. A. C. Campbell, of Wythe, who was in the case as one of Judge Rhea's attorneys at the start, and who had been there at his home by sickness for several days at his bedside, and appeared with his associates last night.

Nothing Spectacular.

There was nothing spectacular or particularly new in last night's proceedings, the most interesting feature being Judge Rhea's direct and deliberate testimony, and Captain Bullitt's severe re-examination of Mr. W. D. McHenry concerning his alleged connection with the famous Scott county ballot.

Former Governor A. J. Montague had been summoned by Senator Noel to appear in the case, and, when he declined the Senator from Lee announced that he would appear after 10 o'clock that he had no more available witnesses. It was understood that there would be an immediate adjournment.

made his announcement concerning Judge Rhen's intentions to take the stand at once, people who in droves had started to leave the chamber and galleries resumed their seats and remained until the proceedings were over.

The case will go over, and will probably not be finally decided before

Impression is that Judge Rhea will be acquitted, and will be promptly confirmed by the Joint Assembly.

**Session of Committee.**

After Senator Echols had rapped the committee to order former Senator H. G. Peters was called to the stand and asked a few questions by Captain Bul-

Not so with Mr. W. D. Smith, who was recalled. He was severely re-examined with reference to the Scott county ballot.

His depositions in one of the Walker-Rhea contests were read on this point, and he admitted their correctness. Captain Bullitt drew out of the witness that he had had something to do with the preparation of what the lawyer insisted ever afterwards in calling a "little paper" for the guidance of

Witness was asked if this "little paper" was not identical with the Scott county ballot, but he could not come nearer to saying this than that the Scott county ballot looked more complicated. Witness declared he did not discuss the Scott county ballot with Judge Rhea, and could not recall that they discussed the "little piece of paper."

of the counties might prove cur-  
some, and therefore the "little piece of  
paper" had been gotten out.

**Broke Down the Door.**

Mr. Irvine, questioning the witness,  
brought out the information that he  
had not conferred with Judge Rhea  
concerning this typewritten "piece of  
paper."

Colonel Richmond was recalled by Captain Bullitt and briefly examined. His testimony added little to what he had said on the previous day.

Former Senator R. Walter Dickinson of Russell, testified that he was at Lebanon after the 1902 election for Slomp; that Republicans told him J. H. Ashworth, of Bristol (Democrat) was there for Brea and looked up in

The clerk office with the canvassing board. He opened the door and found Ashworth with the board, no Republican being in the room.

They went later to another room, and when a man asked admittance he was let down the door. Four or five Democratic judges, and they said the vote had been canvassed and all Republican precincts thrown out.

Cross-examined by Mr. Irvine, Mr. McKenon said he knew nothing to connect Judge Rhea with the transaction.

W. S. Cox, of Gate City, was recalled and briefly questioned by Sen-

ing of what Captain Bullitt called the "little piece of paper."

**No More Witnesses.**

At this point Senator Noel said he had no more available witnesses, and asked that Captain J. C. Gent, of Russell, be summoned and that a rule be issued from A. G. S. Benson, of Scott.

Mr. Irving then sprung the surprise of the session by saying Judge Rhea was ready to go on and close his case. He presented as his first witness